

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 7 as follows:

As shown in FIG. 2, in the first embodiment, given that an axis connecting the center A of the fixing roller 12 and the center B of the pressing roller 16 is X, and an axis along a direction in which the pressing roller 16 is biased toward the fixing roller 12 in the rotational contact region is Y, an angle  $\theta$  defined between the axis X and the axis Y is set at  $+48^\circ$  (plus 48 degrees), or in an inclined pressing state (wherein a positive sign assigned to the angle  $\theta$  means that the angle  $\theta$  is defined between the axis X and the axis Y located on a sheet-feeding side with respect to the axis X, and a negative sign assigned to the angle  $\theta$  means that that the angle  $\theta$  is defined between the axis X and the axis Y located on a sheet-discharging side with respect to the axis X).

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 8 as follows:

According to the above modification of the second embodiment, the sheet S passing through the rotational contact region formed in the upward convex shape has a tendency (property) of curving downwardly when discharged. Thus, the sheet S can be reliably released from the outer peripheral surface of the fixing roller 12 without using any releasing pawl even if no oil or a minimized amount of oil is applied from the oil-applying roller 24.

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Amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 18 as follows:

Third and fourth ~~embodiment~~ embodiments constructed to heat the outer peripheral surface of the fixing roller 12 from the outside of the fixing roller will be described below.